DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAMS

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September 29, 2005

Dear Field:

This letter is to encourage counties to open your doors in support of hurricane evacuees who may need substance abuse treatment.

Charles Curie, Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), has requested that our state substance abuse prevention and treatment system assure access to necessary addiction prevention and treatment services for all hurricane evacuees.

There are currently over 16,000 hurricane evacuees in California. We do not know how many evacuees in California may need treatment services, however the <u>Chicago Tribune</u> recently reported that thousands of drug abusers and alcoholics have been displaced by the hurricane.

In order to know how many hurricane evacuees are served in California, the Program Services Division will provide a future ADP Bulletin with instructions for tracking hurricane evacuees. I do not know if Congress will allocate additional funds for hurricane impacted states. However, if additional federal funding becomes available, appropriate record keeping will be necessary. Please distribute this to your providers.

Please contact Les Johnson, Assistant Director, at (916) 324-7667, with any questions. Les is coordinating the Department's hurricane programs.

Thank you for your support on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Kathryn P. Jett KATHRYN P. JETT

Director

